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WILL PRO-CHOICE GOP WOMEN CROSS OVER TO VOTE FOR PRO-CHOICE DEMOS IN NOVEMBER???

Editor's note: Sometime soon, before July 3rd, the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to hand down a ruling on ABORTION in the case known as Casey v. Planned Parenthood. The high court could overturn Roe v. Wade or could simply uphold the Pennsylvania law. In EITHER case, once the ruling comes down, PRO-choice groups are hoping that the decision will galvanize PRO-choice GOP women to vote for PRO-choice Demos over PRO-life Republicans in November. Will this happen? That's the big question. Here is CALPEEK's brief report & analysis...

...There does seem to be general agreement among campaign consultants that just because a person is PRO-choice DOESN'T mean that person is a PRO-choice VOTER. As L.A. consultant Parke Skelton told CALPEEK, "No one in their right mind should campaign as a SINGLE-ISSUE PRO-choice candidate." Want an example of what happens? Look at the recent 20th S.D. special where PRO-choice GOP candidate Carol Rowen was defeated by PRO-life Demo State Sen. David Roberti. The 20th S.D. is considered solid PRO-choice turf, but Rowen was a single-issue candidate who was weak on other issues...

...In other words, CHOICE is a CUTTING EDGE issue which can drive PRO-choice voters to cross over party lines, PROVIDED that the PRO-choice candidate has other issues which are viewed favorably...

...So how many GOP PRO-choice women will vote Democratic if CHOICE becomes a key issue this fall? Nationwide, polling data indicates 20% will cross over. Here in Calif. the figures are just a little higher --- 25% to 30%, according to Skelton, who has run independent expenditure campaigns for Demo candidates in Republican leaning districts. Depending on the particular contest, the percentage could be higher or lower...

...Which races are the ones to watch? The most obvious and high-profile battle involves U.S. Senate candidates Bruce Herschensohn(R) and U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer(D). PRO-choice GOP women are expected to cross over for Boxer in fairly large numbers. In U.S. House races across Calif., CALPEEK sources have IDed 6 fall races where GOP cross over voting could be critical. The contests include: Malberg(D) vs. U.S. Rep. Doolittle(R); Garamendi(D) vs. Pombo(R); U.S. Rep. Fazio(D) vs. Richardson(R); Perez-Ferguson(D) vs. U.S. Rep. Gallegly(R); U.S. Rep. Beilenson(D) vs. McClintock(R); and Harman(D) vs. Flores(R). In all cases, the Demos are PRO-choice, running in districts that lean Republican (except for the 11th C.D. - Garamendi)...

...In the CA State Senate, keep your eyes on the 39th S.D., where former GOP Sen. Jim Ellis is attempting a comeback against PRO-choice independent Lucy Killea, a former Demo. Killea won a very high-profile special election several years ago against Assemblywoman Carol Bentley, where ABORTION was a key issue. In that contest, Bentley closed a huge gap with Killea in the final weeks of the campaign when she moved the debate to core Republican issues...

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CALPEEK VACATION TIME - We're taking next week off, meaning this will be the last issue for JUNE. Our next issue will be dated JULY 6, 1992. During the summer we anticipate taking off at least one week in July, August and probably September...

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...In the State Assembly, there are about 8 key races to watch: Hatamiya(D) vs. Richter(R); Albiani(D) vs. Bowler(R); Snyder(D) vs. Keating-Edh(R); Bowen(D) vs. Parton(R); Assemblyman Epple(D) vs. Hawkins(R); Assemblyman Umberg(D) vs. Allen(R); Assemblyman Gotch(D) vs. Daleke(R); and Carney(D) vs. Weggeland(R). Again, the PRO-choice Demos are running in districts that lean Republican...

...In some cases where PRO-choice Demo women are running against PRO-life GOP women, the choice issue can be undercut. This could happen in the 36th C.D. with Jane Harman(D) vs. Joan Flores(R); and in the 25th A.D. where Margaret Snyder(D) faces Barbara Keating-Edh. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S PRIMARY WRAP-UP: ODDS AND ENDS. Editor's note: Here are some items left over from the June 2nd primary that should be of interest...

• 22nd C.D. - The bitter GOP primary war between incumbent U.S. Rep. Bob Lagomarsino and victorious primary winner Michael Huffington WAS the most expensive House primary in the U.S. Final figures may top $3 million. FYI: No decision yet on whether Lago will mount a fall WRITE-IN campaign, but the odds aren't good. It's really NOT Lago that is pushing this, but rather some of his diehard supporters. On the other hand, he hasn't endorsed Huffington yet. And neither has another GOP primary challenger, hardliner Gordon Klemm. Klemm's 6,000 votes are what may have cost Lagomarsino the primary...

• 46th C.D. - No decision from the camp of GOP challenger Judith Ryan as to weather she will mount a WRITE-IN against incumbent U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan. But sources expect a decision in 2-3 weeks. The Demo primary winner was Robert Banuelos, a perennial candidate who has no chance of winning...

• 23rd S.D. FINAL - State Sen. Herschel Rosenthal(D) has conceded to primary rival, Assemblyman Tom Hayden. With the absentees now counted, Hayden is up by 575 votes. FYI: by June 22nd we'll know whether a write-in campaign for GOP hardliner Robert Teagle has succeeded. NO GOP candidates qualified to be on the June primary ballot, thus the write-in effort...

• NOT A PERFECT NIGHT - Contrary to what appeared in CALPEEK last week about Sacto consultant Larry Sheingold, he did NOT have a perfect primary. He was beaten badly by consultant Richie Ross on Sacto's Measure G, a non-smoking law opposed by the tobacco industry. Sheingold managed NO on G (pro-tobacco side). Yes, Sheingold was 6 for 6 on candidates, but in his FAX to CALPEEK he never mentioned Measure G. And as it turns out, Ross didn't have a perfect primary either, although it was an EXCELLENT night for him. He lost a Sacto council race...

• DIRTY TRICKS - We always hear about such things afterwards. Some are funny, others downright dirty, but clever. In the 39th S.D. primary, a PRO-LIFE independent expenditure effort tried to get Demos to write-in the name of Julie Pierce. There was no Demo in this race because State Sen. Lucy Killea is now an independent. A mailer encouraging the write-in included the names of well-known PRO-choice Demos. The intent, according to CARAL, was to fool Demos into thinking Pierce was a PRO-choice Demo. She happens to be the daughter of PRO-Life GOP 49th C.D. candidate Dave Pierce. The mailer didn't work, but it scared both Killea and CARAL. Had Pierce qualifed as a Demo candidate, Killea's odds of winning in November against Republican Jim Ellis might have dropped to nil. The former Demo senator is counting on Demos to put her over the top in this contest...

• SAY IT AIN'T SO, MR. JONES - On June 11, about 20 GOP Assembly candidates from so called "safe" Republican districts showed up in Sacto where they met with more than 130 lobbyists. When word of this event was first announced (in the form of an invite from former GOP Assembly Leader Ross Johnson), it was none other than GOP Assembly Leader Bill Jones who was urging lobbyists NOT to attend. We wonder why??? Stay tuned...

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CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: COMMITTEES PUSHING MEASURES GETTING SET FOR NOVEMBER BATTLES. Editor's note: As of CALPEEK's deadline, only 4 INITIATIVES have qualified for the Nov. 3rd ballot. Four other initiatives submitted for verification are still being processed to see if they have enough valid signatures. The deadline for initiatives to make the November ballot is June 25th. Here is CALPEEK's update...

...Term Limits; Death With Dignity; the Pension Protection Act; and the repeal of the sales tax on snack foods -- these are the four measures which will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot. Here's a quick rundown on who's involved...

• TERM LIMITS - The YES side has basically the same campaign team that won the November 1990 Prop. 140 election: consultants Wayne Johnson and Tim Carey. Johnson represents a group led by Ted Costa, while Carey is in charge of the group led by former L.A. Co. Sup. Pete Schabarum. At this point there is NO opposition committee to this plan which would limit terms of CA's U.S. Senators and U.S. House members...

• The snack tax repeal committee will be advised by consultant Paul Kinney. This initiative is backed by Assemblyman Dick Floyd(D-Gardena) and has funding from the food and grocery industries. There is NO opposition committee as yet...

• The Pension Protection Act of 1992 is being back by MOST of the State's powerful public employee unions, along with Ted Costa's People's Advocate. The committee's formal name is Californians for Pension Protection (CPP). The consultants are Wayne Johnson and Townsend, Hermocillo, Raimundo & Usher. There is NO opposition group to this initiative which would stop the governor and legislature from raiding the pension funds in times of economic crisis...

• Of the 4 initiatives which have qualified, The Death With Dignity Initiative is the only measure where PRO & CON sides have now formed separate committees and have each hired teams of consultants. The YES side has hired L.A. based Siegel & Nicholl, while the NO side has hired Sacto-based Cavalier & Associates. The NO side's official cmt. name is Californians Against the Euthanasia Initiative. It's the NO side which will have the BIG BUCKS, mostly coming from the medical & health communities, who usually oppose such measures. Among the opponents are the CMA, the CA Assn. of Hospitals & Health Systems, the CA Commission on Aging, CA Nurses for Ethical Standards, CA State Hospice Assn., L.A. Co. Medical Assn. and the Catholic Assn. of Catholic Hospitals. The NO side will probably outspend the YES side by a 4-to-1 margin, unless proponent Robert Risley can find a financial angel...

...Of the 4 measures which have NOT qualified, all but the SCHOOL CHOICE/Voucher Initiative should make the November 1992 ballot. The voucher initiative is still up in the air, especially if it doesn't have enough valid signatures in the random count now being conducted by various county registrars. The random count is just that, a random count of signatures on petitions. If a measure hits 110% validity rate on the random count, it will win certification...

...In the next issue of CALPEEK we'll go over the line-ups for the other measures which qualified. For example, the CA Teachers Assn.(CTA) is currently evaluating proposals for a NO on School Choice campaign (just in case it qualifies); and the anti-Wilson Welfare/Budget cmt. is doing the same thing -- evaluating proposals submitted by 7 competing firms...

...FYI: The Commonwealth Club of CA's June 25 meeting will feature a debate on Gov. Wilson's Welfare/Budget Reform plan. Those taking part in the debate are Assemblyman Tom Bates(D-Oakland), Sec. of Health & Welfare Russell S. Gould and PG&E chief economist Tapan Munroe - 5:30 p.m., club office. For info (415)597-6705. This initiative could be thrown out if an appeals court rules that the measure violates the single-subject rule for initiatives. We'll know very shortly. Stay tuned...

SHUMATE TO GIVE WILSON SPIN ON PRIMARIES. Gov. Wilson's Deputy Chief of Staff Joe Shumate will be the guest speaker at the L.A. Public Affairs Officers' Assn. June 30 meeting at the Jonathan Club. Shumate will give the Admin.'s view/spin on the 1992 elections. 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon luncheon. For info & RSVPs contact Frances Williams at (213)483-1581...

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BOXER, DIFI, BRAUN, YEAKEL AT SENATE EVENT. The Hollywood Women's Political Cmt. will stage a $500-1000 per person fundraiser on July 1st featuring WOMEN U.S. Senate candidates Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Lynn Yeakel, Carol Moseley Braun, Geraldine Feraro, Josie Heath, Jean Lloyd-Jones, Patty Murray, and Geri Rothman-Serot. The fundraiser will be at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner. For info (310)559-9334...

CA COUNTY SUPERVISORS: WINNERS & LOSERS. Editor's note: Thanks to the County Supervisors Assn. of CA, CALPEEK now has a list of all the county supervisors who won and lost in the June 2nd primary. You'll be somewhat surprised...

• LOSERS - There were 15 incumbent county supervisors who LOST their jobs in the June 2nd primary. The losers included: Bill Aragon and Warren Widener of Alameda Co.; James Sweeney and Vernon Gerwer of El Dorado Co.; Jim Mann of Glenn Co.; Don Polson of Modoc Co.; Jim Smith of Plumas Co.; Dianne Owens of Santa Barbara Co.; Lee Simmons of Solano Co.; Larry Montna and Barbara LeVake of Sutter Co.; Phil Gunsauls and Burton Bundy of Tehama Co.; Dee Potter of Trinity Co.; and Gerald Magoon of Tulare Co...

• RUNOFFS - The list of county supes forced into runoffs is way too long to run here, but some of the more well known incumbents who have Nov. 3rd runoffs include Deane Dana of L.A. Co.; Bob Dorr of El Dorado Co.; Karl Hettinger of Kern Co.; Gary Giacomini of Marin Co.; George Beland, Mike Fluty and Susan Hogg - all from Placer Co.; and Barbara Riordan from San Berdu Co...

• BIG WINNERS - San Diego Co. Sup. Brian Bilbray; Riverside Co. Sup. Kay Ceniceros; and Ventura Co. Sup. John Flynn...

• RETIRING TO RUN FOR OTHER OFFICES - San Diego Co. Sup. Susan Golding; San Mateo Co. Sup. Tom Nolan; Sacto Co. Sup. Sandy Smoley; San Berdu Co. Sup. Bob Hammock; Marin Co. Sup. Al Aramburu; and Santa Barbara Co. Sup. Gloria Ochoa. Just calling it quits was Siskiyou Co. Sup. Patti Mattingly. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES. Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

• Veteran GOP consultants Sal Russo and partner Tony Marsh are chalking up lots of air miles between Sacto and DALLAS. Yes, they are talking & negotiating with the Perot campaign. That should NOT shock insiders, because Russo's former partner is Ed Rollins, who is Perot's co-campaign manager. Nothing final as yet...

• Steve Swatt has resigned from KCRA-TV Chn. 3 in Sacto. He was there for about 20 years. Sources say he's going to work for a local pr/pa/campaign firm...

• Longtime Orange Co. Register political reporter Larry Petersen resigned to take a job as a city editor on a small daily in Georgia. Register political editor Dennis Foley takes over the beat...

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